

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

Council Members M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President; Michael Blue, Vice-President, Jerry Donald, Kai Hagen, Jessica Fitzwater, Phil Dacey and Steve McKay were present for the meeting.

Also present were Catherine Keller, Assistant County Attorney; Sydnee Klimko, Legislative Analyst; and Nancy Luna, Executive Assistant, County Council.

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. virtually via video conference.

**Opening Statement from Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer**

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer provided an opening statement at the start of the meeting. Included in that statement was a welcoming to the Workshop for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 and information on how to watch and participate in the meeting. President Keegan-Ayer called roll and a quorum was established for the meeting.

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Amendments**

**Amendment 1:**

In the Appeals section to amend the following pages as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Reduction</b>
Senior Services Administrative Assistant	80	[\$86,189]
Budget Office: one (1) Budget Analyst	81	[\$69,677]
Workforce Services Communications Manager	81	[\$108,428]
Economic Development Business Development Specialist	81	[\$91,992]
Risk Management: PII Compliance Specialist	82	[\$81,362]
Assistant County Attorney	82	[\$117,550]
Treasury Tax Credit Specialist	82	[\$37,195]
HR Generalist	82	[\$83,728]
IIT Software Integrator (INFOR)	83	[\$90,529]
Permits & Inspections Technology Coordinator	84	[\$88,725]
Liquor Board Program Coordinator	85	[\$93,366]

Additionally:

To provide for a total reduction in personnel expenditures for \$948,741.

*Council Member Phil Dacey moved to approve budget amendment 1. Council Member Steve McKay seconded the motion that failed 2-5.*

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Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald		X	
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater		X	
District 5 – Blue		X	
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen		X	
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer		X	

**Amendment 2:**

On Page 49, Subsection Fleet Services, Amend:

Fleet Services	<del>\$18,170,449</del> <b>\$17,170,449</b>
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Additionally:

To provide for a reduction in that Departmental budget of \$1,000,000.

*Council Member Phil Dacey moved to approve budget amendment 2. Council Member Steve McKay seconded the motion that failed 1-6.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald		X	
District 2 – McKay		X	
District 4 – Fitzwater		X	
District 5 – Blue		X	
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen		X	
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer		X	

**Amendment 4:**

On page 69, the “Other Employee Salary Adjustments” is amended as follows for FY22:

Other Employee Salary Adjustments	<del>\$5,428,651</del> <b>\$3,265,749</b>
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This reduction of \$2,162,902 eliminates the 2% component of the proposed County staff wage scale changes. The remaining components of the proposed changes which are not

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affected by this amendment, include: (1) the 1.5% COLA, (2) the new pay scale structure, and (3) the wage changes consistent with the prioritized position categories.

*Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve budget amendment 4. Council Member Phil Dacey seconded the motion that failed 3-4.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald		X	
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater		X	
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen		X	
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer		X	

**Amendment 5:**

On page 16, the proposed funding the Board of Education is amended as follows for FY22:

Board of Education	<del>\$330,327,308</del> \$327,067,043
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This \$3,260,265 reduction represents a proposed funding level which is 5.6% higher than the adopted FY2021 funding level. The proposed amended budget also represents a record level of \$16,739,735 above MOE funding.

If this amendment is adopted, the BOE would decide how to use the funds. That said, this represents corresponds to a 50% funding reduction for the BOE's planned addition of 88 positions for "Additional Resources to Address Academic Recovery & Support Mental Health". These positions appear to be eligible for anticipated Federal COVID funding which is currently not accounted for in their proposed budget. In other words, the reduction proposed by this amendment could very well be offset by Federal funds

*Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve budget amendment 5. Council Member Phil Dacey seconded the motion that failed 2-5.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald		X	
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater		X	
District 5 – Blue		X	

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At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen		X	
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer		X	

**Amendment 6:**

On page 85, the proposed funding “Non-Departmental, 114, Personnel” is amended as follows for FY22:

Additional contracted services to allow for more advertising...	<del>\$100,000</del> \$50,000
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The original appeal for this request was for \$150,000. \$50,000 was reduced by the Administration. I still believe that \$100,000 for this expense for a single year seems high and am proposing an additional \$50,000 reduction.

*Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve budget amendment 6. Council Member Phil Dacey seconded the motion that failed 2-5.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald		X	
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater		X	
District 5 – Blue		X	
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen		X	
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer		X	

**Amendment 7:**

On page 85, the proposed funding “Non-Departmental, 116, Personnel” is amended as follows for FY22:

Contracted services to procure an Equity in Employment study	<del>[\$125,000]</del>
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I recognize the purpose and potential of this program, however, I think that this funding level is very high. I would like clarification and justification for this amount and what it would purchase. Based on that answer, I may reconsider this amendment.

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*Council Member Steve McKay withdrew amendment 7.*

**Amendment 3:**

On page 3, the Proposed Income Tax Rate is amended as follows for FY22:

Income Tax	<del>2.96%</del> 2.86%
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The estimated annual impact of this income tax rate reduction is \$8,900,000, based on current revenue estimates. However, only half of this amount – approximately \$4,450,000 – may be realized in FY22 because income tax rates are applied over the calendar year, rather than a fiscal year.

*Council Member Steve McKay did not introduce amendment 3.*

**Public Comment was heard from:**

- None

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President  
County Council